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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/577,304

04/28/2006

Hideaki Fujita

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8038

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EXAMINER

WONG, TINA MEI SENG

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2874

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/577,304	FUJITA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	TINA M. WONG	2874	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 April 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is responsive to Applicant's response submitted 12 September 2008.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minamio et al. (U.S. Patent 6,864,117) in view of Fukasawa et al. (U.S. Patent 6,396,082).

Regarding claims 1-5, 15, 16 and 19-21, Minamio et al. discloses an optical element sealing structure comprising a mounting body 3/1 provided with a light transmitting section through which light traveling along a predetermined optical path passes; an optical element (e.g. CCD) 4 having an optical surface which is directed to the light transmitting section, and is mounted such that the optical element blocks the light transmitting section at one end; and a sealing body 6 that is formed in a region excluding the optical path, and seals the optical element mounted on the mounting body. The sealing body is formed in a region of the optical element opposite (i.e. facing) to the mounting body. Note transmitting body 5, lead frame 3 and sub mount 4 wherein the optical element is mounted on the lead frame via the sub mount. The exterior terminal portions 3b are exposed to the atmosphere around the sealing structure. The base 1 permits the sealing structure to be optically coupled with a light-transmitting medium (e.g. lens), thereby constituting an optical coupler.

But, Minamio et al. does not expressly disclose the sealing body to be made of molding resin. However, Fukasawa et al. discloses a similar device comprising a sealing body 38 that is made of a molding resin and is formed by molding. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a sealing body made of molding resin to enable complete protective encapsulation of the optical element while maintaining desired device thickness. Furthermore it is noted that the manner in which a device is made is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself. Furthermore, although not expressly disclosed, increasing environmental resistance of the sealing body, providing a connection body with wires for establishing electrical connections, and matching linear expansion coefficients of the materials in the structure would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for reducing noise, relaxing alignment tolerances, and for improving structural longevity, respectively.

Regarding claims 6-9, the selection of any well known material would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to optimize the desired characteristics of the components. Furthermore, Figure 1 discloses the claimed contact areas, wherein the sealing body and the mounting body are covered with the transmitting body (i.e. the transmitting body is disposed over the sealing body and the mounting body).

Regarding claims 10 and 11, although not expressly disclose, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to secure the transmitting body to the mounting body using an adhesive for improving structural integrity. A light-transmitting adhesive having a refractive index higher than that of air and filled between the optical surfaces would also have been obvious for providing an index-matched medium within the optical path for reducing losses.

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Regarding claims 12 and 13, positioning section 9 has a stepped taper wherein the diameter is reduced toward the light-receiving surface of the optical element (column 5, lines 4-26).

Regarding claim 14, the attachment area between the transmitting body and the sealing body is smaller than the surface area on a side where the sealing body is in contact with the mounting body as seen in Figure 1.

Regarding claims 17 and 18, Minamio et al. discloses an aperture but does not disclose the claimed direction of taper (Figure 6). However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the reverse taper for a light emitting device, whereas the taper shown for Minamio et al. is for a light-receiving device, in order to optimize the coupling of light propagating in the reverse direction.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 22 is allowed for the reasons stated in the previous Office action, mailed 28 December 2008.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 12 September 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues the sealing resin of Minamio et al does not equate and is structurally different to the sealing body of the present invention. However, the argument does not reflect the claim language. Although the Minamio et al reference's sealing resin does have different structural characteristics, the claim language only requires the sealing body to be formed in a

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region excluding the optical path and seals the optical element mounted on the mounting body.

As explained in the rejection above, Minamio et al meets the requirements of the claim language.

Applicant also argues the thermal conductivity of the Minamio et al reference can not perform the same function as the present invention. Again, this argument does not reflect the claim language. The claim language only requires for the sealing body to have a thermal conductivity. Furthermore, every component inherently has a thermal conductivity, even if the thermal conductivity of the component is zero. Therefore, the Minamio et al reference meets the requirements of the claim limitations.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TINA M. WONG whose telephone number is (571)272-2352. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-5:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Uyen-Chau Le can be reached on (571) 272-2397. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tina M Wong/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2874